

## VICTORIES FOR CHEAPER GAS.

The Story of Struggles Against Monopolies in Other Cities Told.

Manufacturers as Well as Consumers Pleased with the Result.

Battles Waged in Boston, Cleveland, Wheeling and Milwaukee Bring Lower Prices.

GLEDHILL'S BILL SCARES MAGNATES

All Day Yesterday the Men Who Control the Big New York Gas Companies Were in Conference Over the Assemblyman's Proposed Legislation.

The letter from Assemblyman William E. Gledhill in the Journal yesterday, saying that he is drafting a legislative bill permitting no company to charge more than \$1 per thousand for gas, created a sensation among the gas people. Assemblyman Gledhill said:

"I am convinced of the justice of dollar gas, both to the public and to the gas companies, and I shall use my utmost endeavors to have my bill become a law as speedily as possible. I believe that the recent agreements of the gas companies in this city, when brought to the attention of the Legislature, will promptly induce it to give my bill its hearty and unqualified support.

This plain statement, followed by telegrams from other members of the Legislature, emphatically favoring dollar gas, had immediate effect. Conferences of gas officials were held, but information for publication as to the results was politely declined.

The president of the Equitable company said that poor gas could be made for a dollar, but would be more expensive in the end than the present gas at \$1.25. His company could reduce no further.

Such an answer as the above is invariably made by the New York gas company officials when asked the question:

"Why cannot New York have the dollars of other great cities? It has been proved by Western companies that cheap gas greatly increases the demand."

To get more light on the subject the Journal has telegraphed experts in those cities for facts and figures, with the following results:

**Boston, Mass.**—Boston has reduced its dollar gas for eighteen months. The reduction followed the popular uprising led by Nathan Matthews, Jr., then Mayor. He assembled the community one day by petitioning the Board of Gas and Electric Light Commissioners for a reduction in the price of gas supplied by the local monopoly, and by contracting with a new company to furnish dollar gas to the Roxbury wards.

The newspapers took the matter up and the Gas Board was swamped with petitions. It promptly gave a hearing to the order of reduction. The monopoly has thrived, as usual, even with the reduced rates.

Profits at old prices had been enormous under their former system of manufacture, and they greatly increased with the introduction of water gas, a much cheaper product than the old gas.

The capitalization of the Bay State Gas Company—the local monopoly—is many millions, and its profits at the dollar rate are so great that the newspapers have been full of the struggles of rival factions for control.

**Cleveland, O.**—The battle won by the city for cheap gas was begun six years ago, under the administration of Mayor William G. Hoar.

He was the first Mayor of Cleveland elected under the "federal plan" form of government. He appointed his cabinet of six directors, as provided by the new statute, and named as law director, law General Ed. S. Meyer, an old soldier and able counsel.

General Meyer immediately began a secret investigation of the cost of gas. One Monday evening, a few months after the new administration had come into power, the City Council unexpectedly passed an ordinance reducing gas from \$1.50 to 90 cents a thousand.

The gas company fought hard in the courts. Gas experts were called from all parts of the country, and thousands of pages of testimony were taken. But of all the newspapers of the city, regardless of party or politics, backed the reformers, and after an unparalleled fight the companies agreed to pay 90 per cent of their receipts to the city and to sell gas at 80 cents a thousand to all consumers. The result has been satisfactory to everybody, except, perhaps, the gas companies, while the gas is as good as before. The principle of company town lighting, the central eastern and southern districts of the city, the Cleveland Gas Light and Coke Company. Its authorized capital is \$4,000,000, of which a little over \$3,000,000 is issued. The dividends paid are about 6 per cent annually.

**Wheeling, W. Va.**—The city has owned its own plant nearly twenty-five years. Commenced pay seventy-five cents a thousand for gas to the city, and the plant was built with electricity, lighting all public buildings and in some years pays the city dividends.

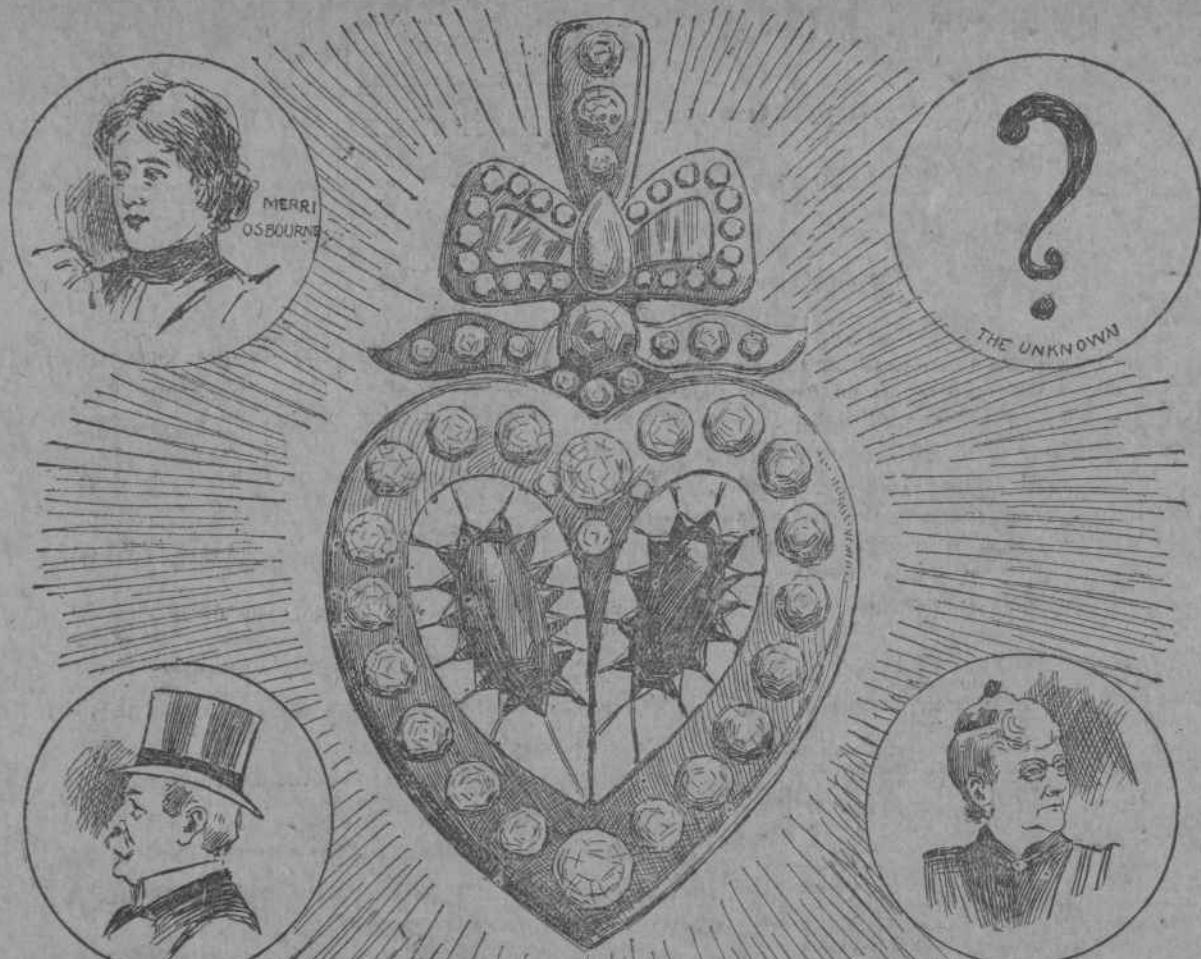
**Milwaukee, Wis.**—Sheldon J. Glass, secretary and treasurer of the Milwaukee Gas Light Company, now selling dollar gas and fuel gas at fifty cents per thousand, says his company finds it more profitable to sell gas cheap than at a high rate.

"Our company is a firm believer in cheap gas," says Mr. Glass, "and as soon as we can see our way clear to further reduce the price we will do so. Experience shows that with each reduction business increases enough to cover lost profits."

"When we reduced six years ago our business was small. During the first year and a half of reduction we suffered, but demonstrated, and now we have greatly increased the consumption of gas throughout the city. We began teaching people to use gas for fuel; now I think we are the only company in the country manufacturing artificial gas that sells more fuel gas than illuminating gas. Our policy is to sell gas as cheap as possible and to increase the volume of the sale. Of course, a few places sell gas slightly cheaper than Milwaukee."

WHEN YOU PUT BABY TO BED

Order It To-day. Out To-morrow.



E. H. PRICE.

THE MYSTERY OF A \$5,000 DIAMOND BROOCH

The \$5,000 Jewel That Was Never Presented.

Theatrical Manager E. E. Price has set a new standard for actresses to live up to, and by so doing he has gained the everlasting ill will of every star, soubrette and chorus girl in the business. In effect Mr. Price has said: "No girl in my company will be allowed, under pain of instant dismissal, to accept flowers, jewelry or presents of any kind from unknown admirers." And pretty Merri Osbourne says that Mr. Price is right, and to prove that she is in earnest, has refused a magnificent diamond brooch that Mrs. Lynch says some unknown man paid her \$5,000 for.

The chorus girls in the company of which Merri is such a bright and shining star do not believe that she has been so heroic, and they say it may be through jealousy—that she never had a chance to refuse the magnificent jewel. They admit that it was sent to her—there can be no mistake about that—but they say Manager Price intercepted it in the lobby of the theatre, where he is always on guard, and indignantly told the messenger that "this ladies were not allowed to receive presents."

They even go further and say that within a few hours Merri will be given the jewel, the possession of which they all covet, and that she will receive it from the hands of the donor.

"Merri knows who he is," said one of the girls, "and so do I. That is, I know what kind of a looking man he is. He is a wealthy, business man whom we girls have seen around for the longest kind of a time, and he is old enough to be the father of every one of us. We have always considered him good for a wine and supper and a box of gloves once in a while, or something like that, but this is the first time we ever heard of his making \$5,000 presents. For that reason we are inclined to believe his admiration for Merri must be sincere."

Meanwhile the much talked about jewel is locked up in one of Mrs. Lynch's burglar proof safes. Mr. Lynch had Mr. Price in Jefferson Market Court yesterday to explain why he had kept the valuable bauble, and for a few moments it looked as though the two men would come to blows. Peace was finally restored by the manager giving the brooch to Mr. Lynch, who immediately notified the purchaser, and received word to hold it until further orders.

## MRS. MCGOWN HERE; MRS. BELL THERE.

Dakota Divorce and Marriage Leads to a Remarkable Domestic Complication.

Woman Finds Herself with Two Husbands, One for North Dakota and One for New York.

Divorce with a Prohibition of Another Marriage May Still Further Mix Things Up.

JUSTICE RUSSELL'S DECISION.

It Establishes the Standing of Many Separated Couples, and Touches on the Legitimacy of Children.

The possibilities of the lack of uniformity in the divorce laws of the different States were exemplified in the Supreme Court yesterday when Harry P. McGown, a clerk in the City Court, brought an action for divorce against his wife, Mary. According to Justice Russell, she is the wife of Harry W. Bell, in North Dakota, but is the wife of Mr. McGown in this State.

The McGowns and the Demarests for years were close neighbors in Harlem. Both families are prominent socially. The head of the McGown family was formerly a City Justice. Dr. John H. Demarest is one of the leading physicians and politicians up town. Harry, the son of ex-Judge McGown, and Mary, the daughter of Dr. Demarest, grew up together, fell in love and were married. The wedding was a social event. A son was born to them. He was named Harry Demarest McGown.

A Good Time to Leave. The child was about fourteen months old on April 24 last, when the husband went home in the evening and found this note:

"Harry: As my brother is going to Minneapolis for a visit, I thought that now was a good time for me to make a visit, so I have gone. MARY."

Mrs. McGown went to Fargo, N. D., and after ninety days got a divorce. Her husband was served here with papers, but paid no attention to them. Mrs. McGown then married Harry W. Bell in North Dakota. Bell is a wealthy manufacturer in the unexcused district. He had boarded with the McGowns. McGown did not recognize the Dakota divorce and subsequent marriage, and brought an action.

Mrs. McGown was in court, accompanied by Bell. She is a very pretty blonde. Bell is a tall, slender man with a black mustache and side whiskers. He is not regarded as so good looking as McGown. Lawyer Charles Blandy appeared for Mr. McGown and Colonel E. C. James for the defendant. Colonel James claimed that the Dakota divorce was valid in this State, but that as no provision was made for the custody of the child it should go to the mother.

Ex-Judge McGown, the father of the plaintiff, who said he was seventy-three years old yesterday, was one of the witnesses. He said his son now lived with him.

"My son's wife," he said, "has never called to see the child since she abandoned it, and has made no effort in that direction."

Dr. Demarest said that his daughter had asked him to look after the health of the child while she was away.

Mrs. McGown Here; Mrs. Bell There. Justice Russell decided at once as follows:

"By the laws of North Dakota she is the lawful wife of Harry W. Bell. By the laws of the State of New York she is the lawful wife of Mr. McGown. Now, that inconsistent relation is something that is very difficult to oblige, but I know of no way, except by adhering first to the ancient rule of the State of New York that the

marital tie cannot be dissolved by such actions on the part of either person to that effect, as in the case of the divorce in this State, under the decisions of this State in the highest courts, this lady is yet the lawful wife of the plaintiff in this action. Therefore, if she has lived in the marital relation with another man, she has violated that obligation, which serves just cause to her husband for a divorce.

"Now, that divorce obtained, what follows? The marital tie is dissolved, not only in the State of North Dakota, but also in the State of New York; and all that remains is the usual prohibition against the party marrying again. The instant the decree of divorce is obtained in this State, so far as I can discover, there is no State in the Union in which these parties must not be regarded as divorced from each other.

"How far that prohibition will extend in the State of New York to anything like

questions of property I do not undertake to say, nor is it necessary. Nothing of that kind appears in this action, nor is there any question as to the legitimacy of any child born before the decree of divorce in this State, for no such child is in existence. I have no doubt that under the present laws a divorce obtained in the State of New York, obtained by the husband, without collusion for a just cause, the marital tie being dissolved, that hereafter this lady, having obtained a divorce in North Dakota, and there married, under the public policy of that State, any issue of that second marriage would be legitimate anywhere, lest that the best way out of the whole situation?"

The divorce has not been granted to Mr. McGown yet, but it probably will be. The lawyers will hand up briefs as to the custody of the child. McGown has brought a suit for \$50,000 against Bell for the alienation of his wife's affections.

SEMI-ANNUAL REDUCTION SALE OF FINE CLOTHING.

Commencing To-day (Saturday) 9 A. M.

The backward season finds us with a larger stock on hand than we care to carry at this season of the year, hence we have decided to begin our SEMI-ANNUAL REDUCTION SALE this week, instead of waiting until after Jan. 1st, as heretofore. This gives our patrons and clothing buyers in general an opportunity to purchase the latest fashions for the holidays. There are no broken lots or sizes, but a complete line of this season's most fashionable and stylish garments.

A FEW REDUCTION SALE PRICES:

All wool Cheviot Suits, all shades; former price, \$10.00. 6.00

All wool Cassimere Suits, fine grade; former prices, \$12 and \$18.50. 7.25

Very fine Cheviot and Cassimere Suits; former prices, \$16 and \$18. 9.50

The very finest fancy Suits in Cheviot and Cassimere; former prices, \$18 and \$20. 12.50

Finest fancy Worsteds Suits; former prices, \$20, \$22.50, \$25. 14.75

Clay Worsted Coat and Vest (fast colors); former price, \$10. 6.75

A full line of Cassimere, Cheviot and Fancy Worsteds Trousers, \$2.00, \$2.75, \$3.50, \$4.00. Former prices, \$3, \$4, \$5, \$6.

A full line of Children's Short Pants Suits, \$2.00 to \$6.00. Former prices, \$3.50 to \$5.50.

CASSEL & CO., Broadway and Eighth St., N. Y.

OPEN SATURDAY EVENING UNTIL 9 O'CLOCK.

Open at Random

16,500

New York Telephone Co.

AMERICAN Painless Dental Parlors, 18 WEST 14TH ST.

Oldest Established—First Class, Low Prices—Dental Parlors in New York.

NO PLATES REQUIRED

We are not competing with cheap dental establishments, but with the best known private dentists.

Do not get your work done before calling here, as we can save you money and call tell you just what it will cost to do your work by a free examination.

We positively extract and fill teeth, and apply gold crowns without pain.

Full Set of Teeth.....\$5.00

Gold Fillings.....1.00

Silver Fillings......50

Porcelain Fillings.....1.00

Gold Crowns......4.00

Gold Crowns and Bridge Work, or Teeth Without Plates, per Tooth......5.00

American Painless Dental Parlors

18 WEST 14TH ST.

## CAB DRIVERS ON STRIKE.

Liberty Dawn Association Starts a Fight for Recognition From the New York Cab Company.

The Liberty Dawn Association of Coach Drivers, representing the livery stable employees, ordered a tie-up early yesterday morning in the five stables of the New York Cab Company, and about two hundred coach drivers quit work. The coachmen say they are satisfied with their wages—\$14 a week—but want to have none but union men employed.

The strike was decided on at a general

meeting of the union held in Independence Hall, Twenty-seventh street, near Third avenue, beginning shortly after midnight and ending at 5 o'clock yesterday morning. There was great excitement in the offices of the company's different stables soon after the strike went into effect, as patrons were telephoning every minute asking why cabs were not coming.

The stables of the company are at No. 21 to 25 East Twelfth street, No. 110 to 130 West Fifty-second street, No. 24 and 26 West Forty-fifth street, No. 223 West Fifty-third street and Amsterdam avenue and Seventy-fifth street. Only a few non-union men and a few who were employed on private service remained around. They had to hustle.

The principal business of the New York Cab Company is supplying coaches to private persons. It does business with the

Union, Colonia, Metropolitan, Lotos, St. Nicholas, Progress, Harmony, City, Lawyers and Harvard clubs.

Allan Lexow, treasurer of the company, said yesterday that the firm had never discriminated between union and non-union men, and could not bind itself to employ only union men.

The strikers met in Independence Hall last night and declared that the tie-up was complete and that they would win.

Yale's Hockey Team in Brooklyn.

Owing to the Casino Skating Rink, at Pittsburgh, burning down, the Yale University Hockey and Polo team, who were to have met the team of the University of Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh to-night, have cancelled their Western game for the present, and have arranged to play a game of ice polo against the Brooklyn Polo Club at the Clevelmont Avenue Skating Rink.

## WANAMAKER'S ALL AROUND THE STORE

Wrapping facilities in the Book Store have been largely increased. Nearly everybody was quickly served yesterday. We intend that all shall be to-day.

Our Book Store is a recognized institution—a youthful giant in Book-handling.



## TOYS---JOYS FOR THE CHILDREN.

Our Toy Store has proved a veritable bonanza to Santa Claus. Every child's Christmas wish has been anticipated by our travelers, who have personally encircled the globe in their Toy gathering.

The day opens with readjustments in the Toy delivery. The tidal wave of popular favor is taxing our Toy force. But the organization is elastic.

## OVERCOATS FOR GIRLS.

This is a golden day for buyers of Girls' Overgarments. We own two great stocks of

GRETCHENS, LONG COATS, REEFERS AND JACKETS

in sizes that range from 4 to 18 years. They have just come to us from two of the best makers. Cloths are fine, workmanship of very high class, trimmings superior.

We omit price quotations, too much detail, but all the prices are

ACTUALLY REDUCED ONE HALF.

Second floor, Broadway.



## AT THE TOP IN FURNITURE

Boudoir Desks. Hundreds of them. Prices \$5 to \$125. In the whole range of gift goods for ladies there is hardly an item more popular.

Parlor and Library Tables share popularity with the dainty Desks. We have many sorts. Some of the cheaper are listed below:

LIBRARY TABLES—

Quartered Oak, large drawer and shelf below, size 24x34, \$8.25.

Quartered Oak, highly polished, 36 in. round top, \$9.

Quartered Oak, French legs, large drawer and shelf below, top 26x42, \$12.

Quartered Oak, 28x48, \$15.

Maple, Mahogany, 26x48, \$12.

Solid Mahogany, 28x42, \$16.50.

PARLOR TABLES—

Imitation Mahogany, shelf below, highly polished, top 20x20, \$2.75.

Birch, 20 inch, round top, polish finish, \$3.75.

Birch, 31x31, \$5.

Quartered Oak, 24x30, shelf below, \$7.50.

Maple, 22x32, \$3.25.

Mahogany, round top, 24 in. diameter, \$7.25.

ART NEEDLE

WORK AND FANCY GOODS

In attractiveness the numerous bits and pieces of Fancy Work and Goods have a rival—very near them, too—the prices. You'll be interested in both.

Photograph Frames, figured silk, 25c.

Scarfs, Japanese silk, gold embroidered, \$1 to \$7.50.

Table Covers, Japanese silk, gold embroidered, \$2.50 to \$4.50.

Centre Pieces, in renaissance, \$2 to \$12.

Bureau Scarfs, in renaissance, \$2.25 to \$7.

Doylies, in renaissance, 50c to \$2.

Doylies, drawn work, 25c to \$1.

Centre Pieces, drawn work, \$2.50 to \$5.

Opera Bags, fancy silk, \$3 to \$3.50.

Shopping Bags, silk and crocheted, \$1.50 to \$15.

Pin Cushions, fancy, 50c to \$13.50.

Handkerchief Cases, 90c to \$7.50.

Scrap Baskets, \$3.25 to \$6.

Tenth street.

TAPESTRY Three patterns of them. All new; no special excuse for chopping prices—none necessary. Desirable curtains, these, but they must move on.

\$4.25 kind, now \$3.50.

\$5.50 kind, now \$4.50.

\$7.25 kind, now \$6.

A very attractive offering of Tapestry Couch Coverings at \$5 and \$6 each. Real bargains.

RUGS A story of little Rugs at little prices:

Smyrna Rugs, 18x36 in., \$1; 21x45 in., \$1.50; 26x54 in., \$2; 30x60 in., \$2.50; 36x72 in., \$3.75.

White goat skin Rugs, 21x25 ft., \$1.50.

Hanadan, Shirvan and Daghestan Rugs, about 3x5 ft., \$5 and upward.

THIRD FLOOR.

SLIPPERS Slippers for men and women. There's comfort and wear in them, but no extravagance in prices. A great variety to pick over—50c to \$3 a pair.

Second floor.

Open evenings until Christmas. Holiday Fair and Christmas Tableaux, third floor.

## JOHN WANAMAKER

Formerly A. T. Stewart & Co., Broadway, Fourth Avenue, Ninth and Tenth Streets.